

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government is aware of the article based on the study conducted by the Research Bureau of the Economic Times published in its issue dated the 5th December, 1967.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

PRICES OF COTTON

5643. SHRI DEORAO PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for imposing restrictions by the Textile Commissioner and by the Reserve Bank on advances being made by the scheduled banks against the security of raw cotton (*Kapas*) stocks;

(b) the effect of these restrictions on the cotton prices in the cotton market; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to stop a steep fall in cotton prices ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) to (c). Credit regulations, along with regulations pertaining to stock levels of cotton, have been continued in the current season with a view to avoiding an undue rise in cotton prices as well as the hoarding or cornering of cotton stocks by mills and trade. These measures have had no unwholesome effect on cotton prices so far. Prices in the current season have been generally ruling at levels substantially higher than the minimum support prices fixed at the beginning of the season.

ALTERNATIVE USES FOR SULPHUR RICH COAL PRODUCED IN ASSAM

5644. SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the research work undertaken by the Regional Research Laboratory at Jorhat to find alternative avenues for the utilisation of the sulphur rich coal produced in Assam has since been completed ;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the decisions taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) to (c). Work is in progress at the Regional Research Laboratory, Jorhat on the possibilities of using Assam coal for metallurgical purposes, fertiliser manufacture and in the cement and sugar industries etc.

SHIPPING SPACE FOR OIL CAKES

5645. DR. RANEN SEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the exporters of oil cakes have complained of non-availability of shipping space for their exporters; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to provide shipping facilities for oil cake exporters ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

प्रथम श्रेणी के रेलवे अधिकारियों की पदोन्नति

5646. श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि रेलवे में प्रथम श्रेणी के अधिकारी 4 वर्ष की सेवा पूरी हो जाने के बाद सीनियर स्केल वेतन मान पाने के हकदार हो जाते हैं ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि यदि उनके हकदार हो जाने पर एक वर्ष में कोई स्थान रिक्त नहीं होता है तो रेलवे बोर्ड अन्य रेलों में उनकी पदोन्नति करने का विचार करता है और एक बार नियुक्त प्रथम श्रेणी के अधिकारियों की पदावनति द्वितीय श्रेणी के और अस्थायी अधिकारियों की पदावनति करने के बाद ही की जा सकती है ;

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो पश्चिम रेलवे में यह प्रक्रिया न अपनाये जाने के क्या कारण हैं ; और